

Remarks

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8, 10, 13, 17, 18 and 20 to 26 are in this application.

Claim 9 has been rewritten as new claim 26 and is believed to be allowable as indicated.

Claim 1, as amended, requires "a sheet of metal weave extending below said channel... at least one distribution gutter ... having a pair of walls defining a downwardly tapering region and a gap to form a throttle means with said sheet of metal weave passing between said walls and through said gap for distributing the liquid descending on said sheet of metal weave by means of a hydrodynamic balance". None of the references of record describes or teaches such a structure. In particular, Acker is void of any such structure. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Acker is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102. Likewise, a rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over Acker is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claims 2, 3, 5 to 8, 10, 13 and 21 to 24 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Claim 6 further requires the sheet of metal weave of claim 1 to be "a mesh having a fine mesh structure for distribution of a liquid with low viscosity. Acker is void of any such structure or teaching".

Claim 7 further requires the sheet of metal of claim 1 to be "a mesh having a coarse mesh structure to define broad gaps between said mesh and said walls of said gutter for distribution of a liquid with high viscosity". Acker is void of any such structure or teaching.

Claim 21 is directed to the embodiment of Fig. 3 and is believed to be allowable in this application with the allowance of claim 1 which is generic to all the illustrated embodiments.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is believed to be allowable herein for similar reasons.

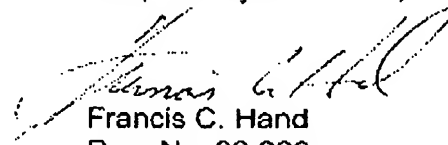
Claim 24 depends from claim 1 and is directed to a specific structure of the sheet metal weave of claim 1.

Claim 17 contains similar recitations as claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Claims 18, 20 and 25 depend from claim 17 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner disagree, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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